WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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      1. A method of reproducing information using an information recording medium in a client/server system, the method comprising the steps of:

10   (a) a client obtaining characteristic information of the information recording medium;

      (b) the client transmitting the characteristic information to a server;

      (c) the server obtaining usage information

15 of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information;

      (d) the server transmitting information based on the usage information to the client; and

      (e) the client reproducing the information

20 recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the information based on the usage information.

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2. A method of reproducing information using an information recording medium in a client/server system, the method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) a client obtaining characteristic information of the information recording medium;

(b) the client transmitting the characteristic information to a first server;

(c) the first server obtaining usage

10 information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information;

(d) the first server transmitting first information based on the usage information to a second server;

15 (e) the second server transmitting second information stored therein to the client in accordance with the first information based on the usage information; and

(f) the client reproducing the information

20 based on the second information received from the second server.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein in said step (b), the client transmits the characteristic information to the first server via the second server.

4. A client/server system reproducing information using an information recording medium, comprising:

    a client; and

    a server,

    wherein the client includes:

        a part configured to obtain characteristic information of the information recording medium;

        a part configured to transmit the characteristic information to the server; and

        a part configured to reproduce the information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with information based on usage information of the information recording medium transmitted from the server; and

        the server includes:

a part configured to obtain the usage
information based on the characteristic information
of the information recording medium; and

a part configured to transmit the
5   information based on the usage information to the
client.

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5.   A server providing information to a
client using an information recording medium in
response to a request of the client, the server
comprising:

15   a first part configured to receive
characteristic information of the information
recording medium from the client;

a second part configured to obtain usage
information of the information recording medium based
20   on the characteristic information; and

a third part configured to transmit to the
client information as to whether reproduction of
information from the information recording medium is
authorized based on the usage information.

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6. The server as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

a fourth part configured to receive from the client the characteristic information of the

5   information recording medium and notification requesting stoppage of usage of the characteristic information; and

a fifth part configured to delete the usage information of the information recording medium based

10 on the characteristic information.

15   7. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a method, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving, based on a request of a client using an information recording medium,

20 characteristic information of the information recording medium from the client;

(b) obtaining usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information; and

25   (c) transmitting to the client information

as to whether reproduction of information from the
information recording medium is authorized based on
the usage information.

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8.   The computer-readable recording medium
as claimed in claim 7, wherein the method further
10   comprises the steps of:
(d) receiving from the client the
characteristic information of the information
recording medium and notification requesting stoppage
of usage of the characteristic information; and
15   (e) deleting the usage information of the
information recording medium based on the
characteristic information.

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9.   A client requesting a server to provide
information thereto, the client using an information
recording medium, the client comprising:
25   a first part configured to obtain

characteristic information of the information

recording medium;

a second part configured to transmit the

characteristic information to the server so that the

5   server obtains usage information of the information

recording medium;

a third part configured to receive

information based on the usage information from the

server; and

10   a fourth part configured to reproduce

information recorded on the information recording

medium in accordance with the information based on

the usage information.

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10.   A computer-readable recording medium

storing a program for causing a computer to execute a

20   method, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining characteristic information of

an information recording medium;

(b) requesting a server to provide

information and transmitting the characteristic

25   information to the server so that the server obtains

usage information of the information recording medium;

(c) receiving information based on the usage information from the server; and

5   (d) reproducing information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the information based on the usage information.